

**DUTCHESS COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL**

July 12, 2016
Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of DC Probation & Community Corrections
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Center, Community Involvement Comm. Chair
John Alessi, DC Jail
Thomas Angell, DC Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair
Kelly Bunt, Family Services, Victims Committee Chair
William G. Carlos, Jr., Citizen Appointment
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Karen DeSimone, DC Probation, Juvenile Justice Committee Chair
Honorable Peter Forman, Dutchess County Court
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
William Grady, DC District Attorney
Mary Haight, Women's Center, Women's Committee Chair
Lance Hardy, Citizen Appointment
Austin "Brud" Hodgkins, Citizen Appointment
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator
Ronald Knapp, City of Pok. Acting City Administrator, Special Populations Chair
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
William O'Neil, DC Executive's Office
Julia Pagones, DC Executive's Office
Honorable Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice
Marjorie Smith, Citizen Appointment
Nicole Willoughby, Project M.O.R.E.
Kendra Harris, CJC Administrative Coordinator

GUESTS: Jessica Baade, Project M.O.R.E.
William Eckert, DC DBCH
Johnathan Heller, DC Probation & Community Corrections
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Kari Rieser, DC Legislator
Mark Sasvary, Hudson Vally Mental Health
Dwajuana Stokes, Project M.O.R.E.
Thomas Morris, DC Probation & Community Corrections
Shannon Wong, NYCLV

Mary Ellen Still opened the meeting by informing the Council the order of agenda items would be adjusted because one of the RESTART presenters needed to leave early. Mary Ellen also gave a housekeeping reminder that only council members may ask questions or make comments during the meeting. After the meeting is adjourned, guests will have the opportunity to speak. The meeting commenced as follows:

1. Presentation on RESTART

Mary Ellen introduced the presentation by explaining that it is a follow-up to our consultant Kevin Warwick's presentation at the previous meeting. Kevin discussed the structure of RESTART. Today's presentation is focused on the agencies participating in RESTART. Jon Heller, Unit Administrator and Pre-Trial Supervisor for Probation and Community Corrections, began the presentation by introducing Bill Eckert, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Jail-Based Services; Mark Sasvary, Hudson Valley Mental Health's Director of Clinical Services; and Martin "Marty" Lynch, Project M.O.R.E., Inc.'s Director of Programming. Each individual explained their agency's role and responsibilities in RESTART and emphasized the highly collaborative nature of the program and its strong ties to the community. The following discussion occurred during and following the presentation:

Kelly Bunt asked how an individual's release date is factored into the programming schedule. Bill and Jon explained that consideration is given to release dates, if known. All programming in RESTART is available in the community so there is no interruption of service upon release.

Judge Forman suggested that evaluation and analysis of RESTART and other programs would be helpful. Gary Christensen agreed and relayed that there is a Quality Assurance Committee which gathers the statistical data that he analyzes. The software we selected will capture the data. Bill O'Neil and Mary Ellen explained that Dr. Gary Christensen is a national authority in the field of statistical analysis and works with numerous jurisdictions nationwide. While Gary was previously a member of the Criminal Justice Council, he presently is an independent consultant hired by the county to assist in criminal justice planning, research and analysis.

Bill O'Neil commented that he feels that RESTART is a tremendous asset and he especially noted the continuity that allows for a strong connection from the jail to community programming. Bill Eckert noted that Dutchess County has had numerous successful initiatives, but with the addition of RESTART, we are able to focus on high risk individuals; those most likely to recidivate. Gary noted that individuals in the 4-6 proxy range recidivate at a rate between 60-70%. This is a group that represents a very small percentage of our population but a very large percentage of our local crime. The triage practices of RESTART ensures that the highest risk individuals are admitted to the program. A 10% reduction in recidivism for this population has an enormous impact, however, the recidivism rate for this population is still going to be higher than individuals with a lower proxy score. It was also explained that the 51% recidivism rate mentioned in past presentations is reflective of the entire 0-6 proxy population from the lowest to highest risk individuals.

Judge Forman asked about the amount/percentage of program participants who do not complete/graduate the program. Bill Eckert explained that non-completion is generally for behavioral issues. The higher the risk level, the more frequently behavioral issues occur so that is taken into account. Failure to complete rates will be captured. The software will generate performance measures and outcomes.

Mark Sasvary and Marty Lynch described the role of their agencies. Marge Smith commented that RESTART was a wonderful program aimed at offenders, but expressed concern for the victims of the offenders. Kelly asked what information is conveyed to victims. Bill Eckert and Jon responded that a key element of the program is to address the criminal attitude, thinking and behavior which include acknowledgment of harm done and accountability. RESTART facilitators do not have direct contact with victims; however, contact with victims does occur through the DA's Office, Probation and victim services agencies.

Judge Frederick Romig relayed that along with being an East Fishkill Town Justice, he is the Vice President of the Dutchess County Magistrates Association. He asked for any suggestions on ways that he can be helpful and effective in utilizing the RESTART program. Tom Angell replied that the program facilitators have done an excellent job and clients have expressed that they are getting a lot out of it. Discussions are continuing between the Public Defender and District Attorney's offices regarding RESTART. It was suggested and agreed upon that RESTART will be presented to the Magistrates Association in the near future. Bill Grady added that the District Attorney's office is very happy to have the program in Dutchess County. He also feels that the program facilitators have done a fantastic job in creating a situation where the inmate population volunteers to participate in this program. Offering intensive in-house programs aids an individual's transition back to the community and enhances public safety. He added that he would like to see the success rate when the data is available.

Lance Hardy inquired if the RESTART program was appropriate for youth in middle and high school, specifically the alternative schools, as a preventive measure. Bill Eckert and Mary Ellen replied that while it is important to give attention to our youth, this program was not designed for that particular population or age group. There are a variety of school and community programs to serve our youth.

Mary Ellen thanked the presenters for today's presentation and their hard work and dedication.

2. Approval of May 10, 2016 Minutes

The Minutes of the May 10, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by Tom and seconded by Bill O'Neil.

3. Jail/ATI Report – John Alessi and Mary Ellen Still

The jail statistics and ATI report were emailed to the Council. There were no questions or comments.

4. Update - Dr. Gary Christensen

Dr. Gary Christensen reported that he has been focusing on how people move through the criminal justice system (case processing). The jail population has decreased, as predicted, with the installation of the pods and the end of housing out large numbers of inmates. We have now begun to look at systemic issues that need to be evaluated. A report is being readied for the September meeting.

5. Introduction of new member - Mary Ellen Still

Mary Ellen welcomed Nicole Willoughby from Project M.O.R.E. as a new member of the Criminal Justice Council. As Director of the Community Transition Center, Nicole represents the community service component of ATIs.

6. Committee Reports:

Victims - Kelly Bunt

Kelly Bunt reported that the committee held its first meeting in June. There was significant representation from various disciplines. The group discussed potential areas to focus on. Kelly stated that the number of people that came together and the commitment they showed was inspiring. Committee meetings are planned for the second Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Women in Criminal Justice System - Mary Haight

Mary Haight reported that the committee has met multiple times since our last Council meeting and they continue to share information and resources. The group looked at trends in Dutchess County as well as the national trends to compare results. One report that the committee reviewed noted that women are incarcerated in state prisons for property and drug offenses at a higher rate than men and a large percentage of incarcerated women have children under the age of 18. A positive report recognized that New York State has one of the lowest incarceration rates in state prisons. Committee meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at the Women's Center. At the next meeting Probation Officer Karmen Smallwood will present on a probation program called Empathy Workshop.

Diversion - Steve Miccio

Steve Miccio reported that construction has started on the building for the Stabilization Center. A “soft opening” is planned for early November. The Medicaid Health System Redesign Team has agreed to provide money for training. We are pursuing certifications for the center from the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).

In June OMH held a CIT training. The Dutchess County CIT team was present to observe and glean additional points to add to their training. Steve commented that "our own team does a phenomenal job." The next training is scheduled for September.

Juvenile Justice - Karen DeSimone

Karen DeSimone reported that the committee last met on May 26th with the discussion mainly focused on mentally ill youth in our system. The committee considered the Stabilization Center to be a great opportunity for the system to redirect how youth are managed and receive services. In the near future, Steve Miccio will be scheduled to present to the committee and a committee meeting will be planned at the Stabilization Center. The meeting also included a discussion regarding concerns over youth violence. There are several agencies meeting with the City of Poughkeepsie schools to work on initiatives to bring community services directly into the schools. To enhance these efforts, city school representatives intend to have more involvement with the Juvenile Justice Committee. Karen reiterated that the goal is to prevent youth from becoming involved in the criminal justice system. The Juvenile Justice Committee's next meeting is scheduled for July 28th.

Mary Ellen added that she was informed today by Bridget of possible corrections that may need to be made to the juvenile detention statistics that were emailed to the Council. An updated report will be sent upon receipt from DCFS.

Re-Entry - Thomas Angell

Tom reported that the Re-Entry task force is an active group with well attended meetings. The last meeting was held on June 16th. Frank Peppi, former Superintendent of the Arlington School District, gave an extensive

presentation on services that are currently available the committee could utilize. The committee has been discussing how recidivism is related to individuals staying in Hillcrest House where a portion of the population is not maintaining sobriety. Upon reviewing statistical reports, the committee noted that a reoccurring factor seen in parole violators is a stay at Hillcrest House. With the goal of seeing positive re-entry results, the committee will continue to give attention to these housing issues. Tom stated that he was pleased to announce that the Coming Home program run by Fordham University will once again begin in the fall. There will be a partnership with the Unitarian Church in Poughkeepsie for a mentoring program. A presentation was made last year when the program was initiated. Both probation and parole have participated in that program. The focus of the next Re-Entry committee meeting is community wealth building. That meeting is scheduled for August 18th at St. Paul's Church at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CIC - Shirley Adams

Shirley Adams reported that this month the Community Involvement Committee (CIC) members will be visiting the various Criminal Justice Council (CJC) committees to learn about the topics presented. Many of the questions and concerns that come up at CIC meetings are addressed at other CJC committee meetings. Visiting the committees will also give the members an idea of which ones they may want to join.

Special Populations - Ronald Knapp and Mary Ellen Still

Ron Knapp stated that the RESTART presentation summed up much of the work of the Special Populations Committee. For the past two years, the committee has held monthly meetings and one of the products of the committee's work is the RESTART program. He commented that not only do we have a strong program, but we have dedicated people running it. This was shown by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the presenters. The committee also recently discussed Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). Mary Ellen also commended the RESTART facilitators and team. She stated that "the committee designed a great program but it depends on the people working in it to make it successful. They have worked very hard with our consultant Kevin Warwick who has guided the entire process." The next meeting is scheduled for August 1st.

7. Old Business

None.

8. New Business

None.

9. Announcements

None.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Catherine Street Community Center

(Entrance on 152 Mansion Street)

Poughkeepsie, NY